

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 01111 141703Z

44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 COA-01 SCA-01 DLOS-03

CG-00 DOTE-00 SCS-03 /063 W
----- 037182

O 141650Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4457

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 1111

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EFIS PLOS EC US

SUBJECT: TUNA BOAT SEIZURES: CONSULAR ASSISTANCE AND STATUS OF VESS
EL

REF: QUITO 1028

1. GOE HAS NOW CONFIRMED THAT IT PLANS TO CONFISCATE CATCH RATHER THAN GO THROUGH WITH A BUYBACK DEAL. IT FURTHER INTENDS TO ORDER SIX OF THE SEVEN US-FLAG BOATS TO PROCEED TO MANTA FOR OFFLOADING. (MANTA IS ABOUT 100 MILES NORTH OF SALINAS.) CALYPSO WILL REMAIN IN SALINAS TO OFF-LOAD THERE.

2. EMBASSY LETTER TO SUBSECRETARY FOR FISHERIES (QUITO 1094), COPY OF WHICH ALSO WENT BY NOTE TO FONMIN, HAS BEEN GIVEN WIDE DISSEMINATION TO BOTH NAVAL OFFICIALS AND INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES. AS A RESULT, CHIEF OF STAFF OF FIRST NAVAL ZONE IN GUAYAQUIL, CAPT RUIZ, IS SEEKING A MEETING WITH OWNER REPS TO INFORM THEM FIRST OF GOE DECISION. NAVATT HAS ALSO CALLED ON CHIEF OF STAFF OF ECUADOREAN NAVY, WHO HAS ISSUED FIRM INSTRUCTIONS THAT SOP OUTLINED IN REFERENCED LETTER BE COMPLIED WITH.

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PAGE 02 QUITO 01111 141703Z

3. MEANWHILE, OWNER REPS WERE UNFORTUNATELY UNAVAILABLE

THIS MORNING FOR MEETING WITH CHIEF OF STAFF OF FIRST
NAVAL ZONE TO RECEIVED THESE FORMAL INSTRUCTIONS BECAUSE
THEY WERE EN ROUTE TO SALINAS WHERE THEY PLAN TO MEET
WITH BOAT CAPTAINS AT NOON. CONSUL KELLER'S JUDGMENT IS
THAT OWNER REPS ARE AVOIDING MEETING WITH CAPT RUIZ UNTIL THEY
HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO MOLLIFY BOAT CAPTAINS WHO ARE UNDER-
STANDABLY EXERCISED OVER PROSPECT OF CATCH CONFISCATION.

4. WE HAVE TOLD CONSUL KELLER AND CONGEN DEWITT THAT
AFTER OWNER REPS' MEETINGS WITH BOAT CAPTAINS, REPS MUST
GET TOGETHER ASAP WITH CHIEF OF STAFF OF FIRST NAVAL ZONE.

5. MEANWHILE, WE PLAN TO STATION CONSULAR OFFICERS ABOARD
EACH VESSEL FOR TRIP FROM SALINAS TO MANTA AND TO OBSERVE
OFF-LOADING OPERATION. WHEN LOCUS OF ACTION HAS
SHIFTED TO MANTA, ONE CONSULAR OFFICER WILL BE LEFT AT
SALINAS AND CONGEN DEWITT WILL MOVE HIS OPERATION TO
MANTA.
BREWSTER

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NNN

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